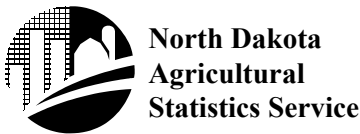


NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



Released: April 7, 2003
For Week Ending: April 6, 2003
ND-CW1403

Cooperating With:
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN)
and
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER
INFORMATION CENTER

General: Several inches of snow fell across the north central and northeast regions of the state last week delaying fieldwork, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 10 percent very short, 29 short, 52 adequate and 9 percent surplus.

The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 18. This compares to last year's start of April 25. The record late starting date for fieldwork is May 13, set in 1979. The expected starting dates range from April 12 in the west central and southeast districts to April 28 in the north central district.

Crops: Cold, wet conditions last week limited planting opportunities. Only spring wheat had any planting progress as of April 6, mostly in the southeast and south central districts. Planting progress for last year and the five-year average was zero for all crops.

Livestock: The snow and rain last week, resulting in muddy and wet conditions, made calving and lambing more difficult in the north central and northeast. Calving was 57 percent complete compared to 59 percent complete on April 7 last year. Lambing was 72 percent complete compared to 70 percent last year. Shearing was 79 percent complete.

Cattle conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 28 fair, 61 good and 6 excellent. Calf conditions were 0 percent very poor, 2 poor, 21 fair, 66 good and 11 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 26 fair, 61 good and 9 excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 21 fair, 66 good and 9 excellent.

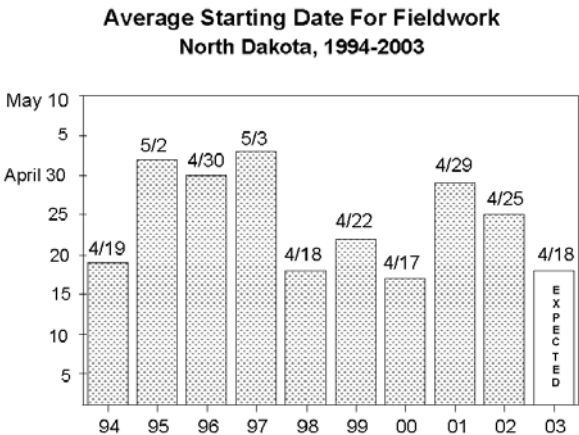
Livestock feed and hay supplies remain mostly adequate at this time. Current supplies of hay and forage were rated 7 percent very short, 20 short, 72 adequate and 1 surplus. This compares to a rating last year of 3 percent short, 88 adequate and 9 surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 87 percent adequate and 5 surplus. Pasture conditions were 11 percent growing and 89 percent still dormant.

Livestock Condition					
Week Ending April 6, 2003					
Livestock	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
(Percent)					
Cows	1	4	28	61	6
Calves	0	2	21	66	11
Sheep	1	3	26	61	9
Lambs	1	3	21	66	9

Soil Temperatures: Average soil temperatures on April 6 ranged from a low of 31 degrees F in Langdon, Cavalier, Watford City, Turtle Lake, Robinson, Carrington, Dazey and Streeter to a high of 35 degrees in Fargo. These readings reflect daily average temperatures under 4 inches of bare soil and recorded by the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN).

AVERAGE SOIL TEMPERATURES*, April 6, 2003			
Station	Temperature	Station	Temperature
Degrees F		Degrees F	
NORTHWEST		CENTRAL	
Bowbells	32	Carrington	31
Minot	32	Robinson	31
Williston	32	Streeter	31
NORTH CENTRAL		EAST CENTRAL	
Baker	32	Dazey	31
Bottineau	32	Fargo	35
Rolla	32	SOUTHWEST	
NORTHEAST		Bowman	33
Cavalier	31	Dickinson	32
Grand Forks	32	SOUTH CENTRAL	
Langdon	31	Linton	33
WEST CENTRAL		SOUTHEAST	
Turtle Lake	31	Oakes	33
Watford City	31	Wyndmere	34

* Thermometers located 4 inches under bare soil.
Source: NDAWN, Department of Soil Science, NDSU.



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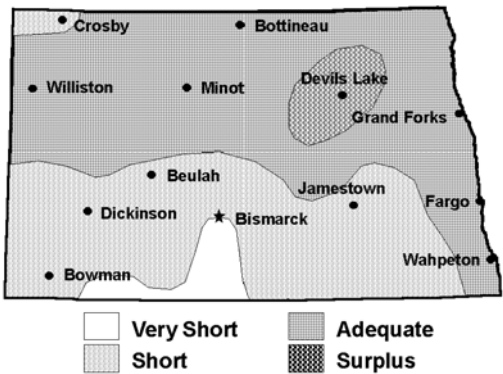
NORTH DAKOTA CROP WEATHER REPORT, Week Ending April 6, 2003

Soil Moisture: North Dakota, April 6, 2003

Date	V. Short	Short	Adq.	Surplus
(Percent)				
TOPSOIL				
This Week	10	29	52	9
Last Week	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 7, 2002	4	29	62	5
98-02 Avg	NA	NA	NA	NA
SUBSOIL				
This Week	15	26	56	3
Last Week	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 7, 2002	3	30	64	3
98-02 Avg	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA = Not Available

Topsoil Moisture Supplies
April 6, 2003



Weather: Once again much of the state experienced below normal temperatures. Southwest North Dakota was fortunate enough to have above normal temperatures for the week. The average temperatures last week ranged from 35 degrees in the northeast to 47 degrees in the southwest. Most temperatures hovered around or stayed below freezing.

An early spring snowstorm brought some precipitation to the state. Although many areas saw quite a bit of snow, the water content was rather low. Except for southwestern North Dakota, precipitation was below normal. Some areas were as little as 0.03 of an inch below normal (northwestern part of the state), while some were as much as 0.25 of an inch below normal (south central North Dakota).

Outlook, April 7-13: Expect to see normal to above normal temperatures this week. Western North Dakota can expect highs in the 60s and low 70s with low temperatures mainly in the low to mid-30s possibly 40s by the end of the week. For central and north central North Dakota expect to see temperatures in the 60s the beginning of the week then dropping slightly to the upper 50s with low temperatures in the low to upper 30s. The southern part of the state can expect to see highs in the upper 60s to lower 70s with lows ranging from lower 30s to lower 40s. Northeast and eastern North Dakota should see high temperatures in the 50s early in the week and then warm up to low to mid-60s by midweek and could possibly see highs in the 70s by the weekend.

The western portion of the state has a chance of showers Thursday night through the weekend. Central North Dakota can expect a chance of showers Thursday and Friday. Any precipitation will be light. Eastern North Dakota looks to be dry for the week.

Temperature & Precipitation: Districts and Stations
North Dakota, Week ending April 6, 2003

District Averages	Average Temperature		Seasonal Precipitation Beginning March 29		
	Past Week	Depart Normal ^{1/}	Past Week	Total	Depart Normal ^{1/}
(Degrees F) (Inches)					
Northwest (1)	39	5	0.17	0.17	-0.03
N. Central (2)	38	5	0.13	0.14	-0.07
Northeast (3)	35	1	0.07	0.08	-0.12
W. Central (4)	45	8	0.13	0.13	-0.07
Central (5)	43	8	0.07	0.07	-0.18
E. Central (6)	43	8	0.09	0.09	-0.23
Southwest (7)	46	9	0.15	0.21	0.01
S. Central (8)	44	7	0.00	0.00	-0.25
Southeast (9)	47	11	0.02	0.02	-0.24

^{1/} Normal is the 1961-90 average. NA = Not Available.
Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND
Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.

Temperature & Precipitation: Districts and Stations
North Dakota, Week ending April 6, 2003

Stations by District	Temperature Past Week		Seasonal Precipitation Beginning March 29		
	High	Low	Past Week	Total	Depart Normal ^{1/}
(Degrees F) (Inches)					
(1) Bowbells	62	12	0.17	0.17	-0.01
Williston	70	17	0.23	0.23	0.08
Mohall	65	11	0.19	0.19	-0.05
Minot	67	6	0.08	0.08	-0.12
(2) Baker	62	16	0.10	0.12	-0.15
Bottineau	63	11	0.12	0.12	-0.05
Towner	67	12	0.18	0.18	0.00
(3) Cando	61	10	0.02	0.02	-0.16
Cavalier	63	9	0.09	0.09	-0.09
Forest River	59	3	0.09	0.09	-0.15
Grand Forks	63	11	0.07	0.07	-0.14
Langdon	57	8	0.06	0.11	-0.05
St. Thomas	60	14	0.11	0.11	-0.13
(4) Hazen	73	20	0.08	0.08	-0.09
Turtle Lake	70	16	0.18	0.18	-0.02
Watford City	71	19	0.14	0.14	-0.09
(5) Carrington	66	19	0.10	0.10	-0.19
Harvey	67	18	0.20	0.20	-0.06
Jamestown	72	16	0.02	0.02	-0.19
Robinson	70	17	0.03	0.03	-0.18
Streeter	71	15	0.00	0.00	-0.26
(6) Dazey	70	10	0.11	0.11	-0.21
Fargo	75	21	0.09	0.09	-0.27
Hillsboro	70	15	0.07	0.07	-0.20
(7) Beach	72	21	0.15	0.15	-0.05
Bowman	73	20	0.10	0.10	-0.08
Dickinson	73	20	0.19	0.41	0.19
Hettinger	73	20	0.17	0.17	-0.02
(8) Mandan	74	17	0.00	0.00	-0.23
Linton	74	13	0.00	0.00	-0.28
(9) Edgeley	75	15	0.04	0.04	-0.22
McLeod	75	18	0.00	0.00	-0.22
Oakes	76	21	0.01	0.01	-0.33
Wyndmere	76	18	0.01	0.01	-0.21

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